

REMARKS

In the above referenced case, claims 129-131 are pending. Applicant will sequentially address the issues raised by the Examiner.

I. Claim Objections

Claim 130 was objected to for an informality in the preamble of the claim. Claim 130 has been amended to correct the informality.

II. The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 129-131 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurematsu et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,153,752 (“KUREMATSU”) in view of Konno, U.S. Patent No. 4,497,015 (“KONNO”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

A. KONNO Is Non-Analogous Art

“In order to rely on a reference as a basis for rejection of an applicant’s invention, the reference must either be in the field of applicant’s endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was concerned.” MPEP 2141.01 (a).

1. KONNO Is Not in the Same Field of Endeavor as the Present Application

Claims 129-131 recite a method, a system and a device for displaying an image projected from a liquid crystal device. In contrast, KONNO discloses technology relating to photolithography in semiconductor manufacturing processes. KONNO, col. 1, lines 6-10. Technology relating to projection of images onto a screen viewable by humans is not in the same field of endeavor as technology relating to semiconductor manufacturing processes.

2. KONNO Is Not Reasonably Pertinent to the Particular Problem with which the Inventor Was Concerned

Claims 129-131 recite a method, system and a device for displaying an image projected from a liquid crystal device. One of the problems being addressed by these claims relates to the efficiency of light transmission to the liquid crystal device. In contrast, KONNO addresses the problem relating to fine circuit pattern resolution on a semiconductor substrate. KONNO, col. 1, lines 12-17. Thus, KONNO does not address problems reasonably pertinent to the particular problems dealt with by claims 129-131.

Based on the foregoing, KONNO is non-analogous art and should not have been cited in combination with KUREMATSU to reject claims 129-131.

B. There Is No Motivation to Combine KUREMATSU and KONNO

Even if KONNO is properly cited, there is no motivation to combine KUREMATSU and KONNO.

“The mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggest the desirability of the combination.” MPEP 2143.01. “If proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification.” Id.

KUREMATSU discloses a projection system for producing enlarged images for viewing on a projection screen. “[T]he synthetic images ... are enlargedly projected to a screen (not shown) through a projection lens system.” KUREMATSU, col. 1, lines 24-28 (emphasis added). In contrast, KONNO discloses an optical system for producing a reduced image to be printed on a wafer.

FIG. 1A illustrates the arrangement of optical members of a reduced-projection exposure system for printing on a wafer a reduced image of a circuit pattern drawn on a photomask or reticle. KONNO, col. 2, lines 44-47 (emphasis added).

Based on the foregoing, there is no motivation to combine KUREMATSU and KONNO and claims 129-131 should be in condition for allowance.

C. KONNO Teaches Away from KUREMATSU

Further, KONNO and KUREMATSU teach away from their combination.

"It is improper to combine references where the references teach away from their combination." MPEP 2145. KUREMATSU discloses a projection system for producing enlarged images for viewing on a projection screen. In contrast, KONNO discloses an optical system for producing reduced images to be printed on a wafer. These references teach away from each other and their combination is therefore improper.

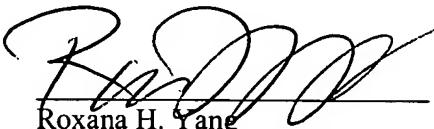
D. Conclusion

Based on all of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of KUREMATSU and KONNO was improper, and claims 129-131 are not unpatentable over these references.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would help advance the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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